

I believe that the proposal to require amateur radio manufacturers to make their equipment is badly misguided. First, it would represent an unwarranted government intrusion into what is basically a private activity. Second, it goes against the general trend in the electronics industry to lower costs through higher levels of integration and automated assembly. Neither of these trends is likely to lead to more easily repairable gear, but the costs of trying to buck these trends are likely to prohibitively large. However, these manufacturing techniques do lead to inherently more reliable gear, obviating the need for field repair.

Finally, it is far from obvious that even the emergency communications area of ham radio will be well served if there are fewer manufacturers of radio gear making more expensive equipment. These users could probably meet their goals more directly by purchasing spares for critical units.

If this proposal is adopted, the most likely outcome is that amateur gear will become more significantly more expensive and that the number of operators available for emergency work will actually decline. I stand strongly opposed to it.

Sincerely,
Daniel Marlow
K2QM